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FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

LS 6804

BILL NUMBER: SB 363

NOTE PREPARED: Feb 14, 2008

BILL AMENDED:

SUBJECT: Uniform Emergency Health Practitioners Act.

FIRST AUTHOR: Sen. Simpson

FIRST SPONSOR: Rep. Welch

BILL STATUS: CR Adopted - 2nd House

FUNDS AFFECTED: X GENERAL
DEDICATED
FEDERAL

IMPACT: State

Summary of Legislation: This bill codifies the Uniform Emergency Volunteer Health Practitioners Act to provide a procedure for recognizing other states' licenses for health practitioners who volunteer to provide assistance during an emergency requiring significant health care assistance.

The bill provides for the creation of a registration system that: (1) out-of-state practitioners may use before or during a disaster; (2) may coincide with existing state or federal registration systems; and (3) allows, upon registration, a health practitioner to contribute professional skills to existing organized disaster efforts.

Effective Date: July 1, 2008.

Explanation of State Expenditures: The Uniform Emergency Volunteer Health Practitioners Act is intended to provide a consistent methodology for state emergency management agencies to register health care practitioners in advance of or during an emergency to facilitate the flow of volunteer health care personnel from other states into disaster areas. The bill allows the Department of Homeland Security, as the state emergency management agency, to adopt rules to establish or recognize other conforming volunteer health practitioner registration systems. The bill does not require the Department to establish a registry. Conforming registration systems must accept applications for registration of volunteer health practitioners before or during an emergency. The registries are required to include confirmable information about the licensure and good standing of the applicants that is accessible by authorized personnel. The Professional Licensing Agency (IPLA) reports that, currently, licensure status of individuals in the professions regulated by the agency can be confirmed on the IPLA website or by calling a toll-free phone line.

The bill provides that the Department of Homeland Security may limit, restrict, or regulate the duration of

practice by volunteer practitioners, the types of practitioners who may practice, the geographical areas in which they may practice, and other matters necessary to coordinate the provision of health care services during an emergency. The bill specifies that the scope of practice of licensed professionals is the same as the state in which the emergency is declared with certain exceptions. The bill also specifies that the State Emergency Management Agency may modify or restrict the health services that volunteer practitioners may provide.

The Department of Homeland Security would be required to adopt rules to implement the bill. The Professional Licensing Agency may need to amend rules to provide for clarification of the various Boards' jurisdiction for source state or host state volunteer health practitioners in emergencies. Rule promulgation and adoption activities are considered to be achievable within the current level of resources available to the agencies.

The Department of Homeland Security had General Fund reversions of \$2,578,105 for FY 2007.

Explanation of State Revenues:

Explanation of Local Expenditures:

Explanation of Local Revenues:

State Agencies Affected: Department of Homeland Security; Professional Licensing Agency.

Local Agencies Affected:

Information Sources: Department of Homeland Security; Professional Licensing Agency.

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